

# **Report to Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee**

**July 31, 2002**

(Prepared by CCP/SAFE Operations Manager John Baumann)

## **Review of MPD Implementation of the Public Strategies Group (PSG) Report *Proposal for A New Direction for The Minneapolis Police Department's Community Crime Prevention/Safety for Everyone (CCP/SAFE) Program* of October 17, 2001**

### **Increase Community Involvement and Capacity to Address Safety, Stability, and Livability Issues**

**Customize CCP/SAFE's community organizing approach to meet neighborhoods' unique needs, assets, history, and culture.**

- CCP/SAFE has implemented planning groups (Neighborhood Action Teams-NAT) in nearly all city neighborhoods. (More detail below)

**Assist neighborhoods in developing an action plan for increasing community involvement and capacity around safety and livability issues.**

- Action plans with specific responsibilities were developed in the planning process

**Focus an outreach initiative to include, involve, and communicate with members of recent immigrant communities**

- SAFE teams regularly use a variety of methods (assistance from bilingual volunteers, meetings with businesses, coordination with social service agencies) to reach out to the immigrant communities in their districts as needed.
- An article in the Spring, 2002 block leader newsletter discussed reaching out neighbors who don't speak English.
- A Somali Crime Prevention Specialist has been hired and he has worked with SAFE teams throughout the City in reaching the Somali population. He regularly translates, makes presentations, helps with problems, answers questions and coordinates with Somali organizations.

**Create a record of neighborhood safety and livability "victories" and celebrate them.**

- In early 2002, CCP/SAFE awarded 11 "Building Blocks" awards for block clubs and other groups that have successfully built community and solved neighborhood problems.
- Stories about all 11 appeared in SAFE Times and some recipients have been interviewed on MPD Live!
- General and specific press releases about Building Blocks winners were sent to neighborhood newspapers.
- The SAFE Times stories about all "Building Block" winners to date will be featured on the CCP/SAFE website.

### **Increase CCP/SAFE and Police Department Responsiveness to Community Members and Community Needs**

**Create neighborhood work plans for CCP/SAFE teams**

#### **Background**

- SAFE teams divided their districts into planning areas, ranging from a single neighborhood to the whole district.
- Each planning team was to have 7-10 people. It was mandatory to invite representatives from the neighborhood association, business community, ethnic communities with significant presence and active block leaders. Teams could optionally invite representatives from human services agencies, the precinct advisory council, those owning rental property, schools, parks, faith communities or other.

- The planning groups were not to be merely advisory; they were structured so that participants were encouraged to be part of the solution.
- In February, SAFE teams attended a specially-designed training, conducted by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, on how to conduct an effective planning process.
- Teams sent out neighborhood information and issue forms for planning group participants to complete. Teams also completed their own issue forms to bring to the initial meeting.
- The target date for having plans in place was April 15.

#### Changes to the Planning Process

- In 4<sup>th</sup> Pct., Inspector Dolan ordered that planning teams come from existing neighborhood organizations. If teams wanted to add people to the planning groups to increase the diversity of opinion, they had to coordinate with the neighborhood organizations.
- Several factors have altered the process in much of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct:
  - One SAFE district used a different process because the CPS was newly assigned
  - Another district changed the process at the request of a City Council member.
  - One SAFE district just got started due to being given other priorities.
  - One SAFE district has not yet begun because the CPS is newly assigned.
- Citywide, 8 of the 25 SAFE districts used a modified planning process and 2 more have been delayed.

#### Results So Far

- 43 planning groups have started the process.
- These groups identified a total 110 issues they wanted to address.
- There were 57 different issues identified. The most common were:
  - Not enough block leaders/ block clubs (9)
  - Graffiti (7)
  - Lack of neighborhood involvement (4)
  - Lack of communication with area residents (4)
  - Drug activity (4)
  - Inconsistent rental property management (4)
  - Problem properties (4)
  - Appearance of neighborhood (4)
  - Lack of activities for youth (4)
- The 43 groups have held 95 community meetings and begun work on 93 of the 110 issues.
- Staff were asked to evaluate the process so far, by noting the positives and the negatives. Negative comments outweighed positive ones more than 2:1.
  - Positives of the new process were:
    - Involves residents in planning (13 groups)
    - Helps identify issues (6)
    - Community and SAFE share accountability (5)
  - Negatives of the process included:
    - Duplicates existing planning efforts (26 groups)
    - Little community interest/ participation (16)
    - Residents don't want to take responsibility for the plan; want to leave it to SAFE (13)
    - Large time commitment for staff (13)
    - Time spent could have been spent on more productive work (10)
    - Issues raised outside of CCP/SAFE's mission (9)
    - Process requires too much time of busy volunteers (9)
    - Participants came with their own agendas (5)

#### **Share useful, timely information with neighborhoods**

- The planning process has fostered discussion of information needs for each of the NATs.
- District e-mail lists for residents and businesses have been increased. Crime alerts have been translated whenever needed.
- The CCP/SAFE web site has been much improved and expanded.

- Many of CCP/SAFE's standard crime prevention materials have been translated into 7 different languages.
- Crime alerts and other advisories to residents are always translated when needed.

#### **Link neighborhoods with other parts of the police department and appropriate city, county, and state agencies**

- Part of the standard procedures for handling SAFE cases is coordinating with other agencies and clarifying roles each party will play.

#### **Maintain responsibility for resolution of "problem properties" with the local CCP/SAFE team and create a standardized process for how such cases are handled throughout the city**

- CCP/SAFE sergeants and supervisors have clarified and rewritten the procedures for handling neighborhood problems.
- SAFE Sergeants are in the process of presenting these materials to SAFE staff in precinct training sessions and emphasizing the importance of handling SAFE cases uniformly citywide.

### **Increase the Amount of Community-Oriented Policing Performed by Other Parts of the Police Department**

#### **Integrate Other Officers from the Precinct into CCP/SAFE Activities**

- The Chief is implementing a "community engagement" process in each of the 13 MPD sectors. Sector lieutenants are forming community advisory groups and are consulting with CCP/SAFE as necessary. Lieutenants, sergeants and officers are being encouraged to become more involved with the community and will undoubtedly attend more community meetings.

#### **Integrate CCP/SAFE "Curriculum" into Regular Police Training**

- All MPD Lieutenants attended a 4 hour training on CCP/SAFE activities in the Spring.
- There will be 6 hours of training in the upcoming police academy this Fall.

### **Increase the Continuity of CCP/SAFE Staff**

#### **Make the SAFE Officer Position the Best Job in the Department**

- CCP/SAFE activities are frequently mentioned positively in the Department's weekly highlights and at weekly CODEFOR meetings.
- CCP/SAFE staff participate in a number of committees and organizations within the City, County, and State (MPD website committee, Mental Health Roundtable, Hawthorn Huddle, Jordan Jam, Mn. National Night Out committee, Mn. Crime Prevention Association, Project Empowerment, Blue Ribbon Group, among many others.)
- Job descriptions, announcements, and ads for SAFE officers and crime prevention specialists are regularly updated.

#### **Make Learning a Cornerstone of the CCP/SAFE Program**

- Having cubicles close to each other and regular precinct CCP/SAFE staff meetings provide teams a chance to discuss cases within precincts.
- The CCP/SAFE Problem Solving Guide, which provides information on addressing many common livability problems, will soon be placed on the CCP/SAFE website in the near future.
- CCP/SAFE activities are frequently mentioned at CODEFOR and in the MPD weekly "bullets" that get distributed throughout the Department.
- CCP/SAFE regularly train community partners in problem-solving techniques through the handling of livability issues.
- CCP/SAFE regularly communicates staffing changes both in person and through district newsletter inserts. The long hiring process for crime prevention specialists and the negotiations that often are required to fill officer positions means that usually one partner is introducing the other to the community. (It is extremely rare for both staff to leave a district simultaneously.)

